

Appl. No. 09/729,569
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2005

REMARKS

This response is submitted in reply to the Office Action dated February 9, 2005. Claims 1-20 are pending the patent application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 8, 11, 13, 14 and 19 have been amended. Claim 4 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added by any of the amendments made herein. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,085,976 to Sehr ("Sehr"). Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections are improper or have been overcome, for at least the reasons below. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the patentability of claims 1-3 and 5-20.

Of the pending claims at issue, claims 1, 7, 8 and 14 are the independent claims. Amended independent claim 1 recites a right-information distribution method including the steps of generating right information and verification information for authenticating the validity of a first portable electronic device when the right information is stored in said first portable electronic device. Then generating a right code by encrypting the right information and the verification information, wherein said right code is provided to a user offline. The method then includes inputting the right code into said first portable electronic device by a second portable electronic device, wherein said second portable electronic device is operable independent of the connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in an audible and/or visible form to input the right code into said portable electronic device by a user. The method further includes decrypting the right code inputted into the first portable electronic device and using the verification information to authenticate the right information based on the decrypted right code. The method also includes storing the authenticated right information in said first portable electronic device.

Amended independent claim 7 recites a right-information distribution method for transferring right information from a first portable electronic device to a second portable electronic device, said right-information distribution method including the steps of generating the right information and verification information for authenticating the validity of said first portable electronic device when the right information is stored in said first portable electronic device. Then generating a first right code by encrypting the right information and the verification information, wherein said right code is provided to a user offline. The method further includes

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the step of enabling the user to input the first right code and identification number of said second portable electronic device into said first portable electronic device independently of a connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated first right code being represented to a user in an audible and/or visible form. Then confirming the input first right code and the input identification number and invalidating the first right code and generating a second right code, wherein said second right code is provided to the user offline. The method additionally includes enabling the user to input the second right code into said second portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said second portable electronic device, the generated second right code being represented to the user in an audible and/or visible form. The method further includes the step of decoding the offline-provided second right code inputted into the portable electronic device and authenticating the decoded second right code. The method then includes storing the right information included in the authenticated second right code in said second portable electronic device.

Amended independent claim 8 recites an information distribution system that includes a portable electronic device for a user and an information management apparatus for storing both information on a predetermined right and information corresponding to said portable electronic device, the second information indicating to whom a right belongs. The information distribution system manages the location of said right by updating the right information stored by said information management apparatus and the information indicating to whom said right belongs. The information management apparatus includes an information holding means for holding the right information, and an access means for recording the transfer of said right to said user by accessing said information holding means and for updating the right information held by said information holding means. Apparatus further includes an encryption means for generating encrypted information by using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom said right belongs to be in an offline provable form. The apparatus additional includes an information providing means for providing said user with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once. The portable electronic device includes a power supply, an input means for accepting the input of the encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information

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represented to a user in an audible and/or visible form. The portable electronic device further includes a decryption means for decrypting the encrypted information using said unique code and outputting the information indicating to whom said right belongs. The device additionally includes a recording means for recording the output information indicating to whom said right belongs; and information output means for using a predetermined access means to output the recorded information indicating to whom said right belongs.

Amended independent claim 14 recites an information management method for, by updating right information held by an information management apparatus and by recording in a portable electronic device information indicating to whom said right belongs, managing said right so as to be exercised when said portable electronic device is with a user. The information management method controls said information management apparatus to perform the steps of generating encrypted information to be in an offline provable form by using a code unique to said portable electronic device to encrypt the information indicating to whom said right belongs. The method further includes providing said user with the encrypted information so that the encrypted information passes through an offline channel at least once. Additionally, the method includes enabling the user to input said encrypted information into said portable electronic device independently of the connection status of said portable electronic device, the generated encrypted information represented in an audible and/or visible form to the user.

Accordingly, claims 1, 7, 8 and 14 have been currently and previously amended to include, in part, inputting the right code into said portable electronic device *independently of the connection status* of said portable electronic device, the generated right code being represented in an audible and/or visible form to the user. Therefore, the presently claimed method and system can be used on the go and do not require the purchase of additional interface equipment.

In one illustrated example of the claimed invention, after purchasing a ticket, a ticket code TC is communicated to a user through an offline channel. See, Specification, pg. 34, lines 1-6. The TC is generated so as to correspond to the numerals of a ten-key pad 8A included on a reader/writer 8. See, Specification, pg. 35, lines 9-12. Then, the user overlays the reader/writer 8 on the IC card 9, and operates the ten-key pad 8A of the IC card 9, and inputs the ticket code TC to then be transferred to the IC card and recorded into memory. See, Specification, pg. 35,

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lines 12-18. Therefore, even if a user does not have an online apparatus such a personal computer with internet access, an encrypted code may be *portably embedded* into the IC card.

In contrast, Sehr provides for a smart card 11 that may be inserted into a read/write module 12 that is incorporated into computer 14 terminals via appropriate plug-in boards, or implemented by the passenger card via built-in input or output ports. See, Sehr, Fig. 1 and col. 6, lines 39-51. Therefore, the method of Sehr requires a personal computer and a IC card reader/writing connected to the personal computer. Moreover, if a user does not have such equipment, that user must go to the store having such equipment. Accordingly, Sehr is disadvantageous in that the electronic device is not truly portable.

In addition, and as discussed previously, Sehr fails to disclose or suggest the use of a generated right code being represented in an audible form anywhere in the specification.

Moreover, claim 13 was amended to clarify that the other portable electronic device is the device of a second user. Therefore, a first user can purchase a plurality of tickets and subsequently send a ticket code TCB to a second user (i.e., a third party), thus, the information distribution system enables transferring a ticket to a third party. See, Specification, pg. 38, line 6 to pg. 40, line 15. In contrast, Sehr appears to only provide one user to transfer information from an old card to a new card, such that the user can select a new card with different "text, logos, artworks, or audio or video files." See, Sehr, col 10, lines 1-21.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 1-3 and 5-20 are patentably distinguishable for Sehr for at least the reasons above.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the anticipation rejections with respect to claims 1-3 and 5-20 be reconsidered and the rejections be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit reconsideration of same.

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Respectfully submitted,

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